

ASTON VILLA



NEWS & RECORD

OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

PRICE 30p

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIV. ONE VOLUME No. 37 PROGRAMME No. 9
SATURDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 1979 KICK-OFF: 3-00 pm

ASTON VILLA v BOLTON WANDERERS





ACTION FILE

Another golden goal for young Gary Shaw earned us a point at Molineux last Saturday. His blistering left foot shot just before the break gave us a deserved 1-1 draw. These Terry Weir pictures show (Top Left) Gary rifling the ball toward the goal — and the dejected look of Emelyn Hughes tells its own story as the ball sits snugly in the net. (Right), Andy Gray, defender. Our former striker needs all his aerial acrobatics to keep out a cross heading for David Geddis as Allan Evans looks on.



Southern Junior Floodlit Cup



It was a spectacular finale for our Southern Junior Floodlit Cup team in their triumph against Chelsea. The game was goalless at the end of 90 minutes, but our youngsters exploded into action during extra time. (Left) a header from Trevor Ames broke the deadlock, followed by (Above) some clinical finishing from Mark Walters to make it No. 2. Eventually we finished 2-1 winners, with an away game against Aldershot in the 3rd round on November 7th (7.30pm).

Photographs: Terry Weir



(Above) it looks for all the world as if Derby County left back Buckley is heading past the 'keeper, but, in fact, the scorer is lurking behind that cluster of people in the centre of the picture—and it's Brian Little striking Villa's first goal in the 3-0 success at the Baseball ground. Goal number 2 (Left) is Gary Shaw and the picture (Below) is the glorious final goal from skipper Dennis Mortimer.



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**ASTON VILLA NEWS
AND RECORD**

*The Official Journal of
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RON SAUNDERS

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

Our 1-1 draw with Wolves last Saturday as well as being hard earned and well deserved, brought our League run to six games without defeat and, slowly but surely our new-look side is beginning to settle down and knit together as a unit. The outstanding aspect of our play in recent games has been the 'All for one and one for all' attitude of the players. With this attitude and you, our supporters, right behind us our improvement can only continue.

The Reserves are to be congratulated for sitting at the top of the Central League and, with so many promising players in our reserve side the experience of being

on the top of the Table can only do them good and promises well for the future of the Club.

We travelled to Bolton for our first game of the season and felt that we were unlucky not to come away with two points but, were obviously reasonably satisfied with the one point we did bring back. So far this season Bolton have not got the best results away from home and, of course, as we all know, the longer a side goes without a good away result the nearer the day is that they will get a good one—we hope that today is not that day. It is up to us to get out there and play the way we can and with your usual backing for each and every one of the team and 110% from all our players, I know we can get the right result.

**Shop
early
for
Villa**

Our special Christmas kiosk is fully-manned—and busy—at *Lewis's* (fifth floor) Toy Fair. All your souvenir needs and stocking fillers for Christmas are available—as they are also at the Souvenir Shop after today's game.

For prices—and prezzies—shop early for Villa.

Hours: *Lewis's* . . . Monday/Tuesday: 9-00am to 5-30pm. Wednesday: 9-30am to 5-30pm. Thursday: 9-00am to 6-30pm. Friday: 9-00am to 5-30pm. Saturday: 9-00am to 6-00pm.
Villa Park . . . Tuesday /Thursday: 9-30am to 5-00pm. Friday: 9-30am to 6-00pm. 9-30am to kick-off and after first-team games on Saturdays.



SEASON TICKETS AT REDUCED PRICES

Today's match with Bolton Wanderers completes one-third of our home Football League programme, and as in past seasons we are now reducing the prices of available Season Tickets by approximately one-third of their League and Cup content following our two home League Cup-ties.

The new prices...

Trinity Road Stand Seats . . . Doors E and G: Formerly £70.00 now £47.00 (£35.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup). Doors A and H: Formerly £60.00 now £40.00 (£28.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup).

Witton Lane Stand Seats . . . Doors N and P: Formerly £70.00 now £47.00 (£35.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup). Door M: Formerly £60.00 now £40.00 (£28.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup).

North Stand Seats . . . Front: Formerly £70.00 now £47.00 (£35.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup). Centre: Formerly £60.00 now £40.00 (£28.00 Football League and £12.00 Cup). Rear: Formerly £46.00 now £31.00 (£23.00 Football League and £8.00 Cup).

Trinity Road Enclosure Seats . . . Adults: Formerly £46.00 now £31.00 (£23.00 Football League and £8.00 Cup). Juveniles: Formerly £32.00 now £21.50 (£13.50 Football League and £8.00 Cup).

★ *These tickets all include payment in advance for the next four possible FA Cup-ties, excluding Semi-Finals*

that Aston Villa may play with, of course, credit carried over to next season or return if we do not play all four home Cup-ties.

Standing . . . Adults: Formerly £24.00 now £16.00. Juveniles: Formerly £12.00 now £8.00.

★ *These tickets do not include Cup-ties, but do give the holder priority in the cases of all-ticket home or away Cup-ties.*

With many attractive League fixtures to come, such as Nottingham Forest, Coventry City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Liverpool and Leeds United, these tickets represent excellent value and, as an added bonus, all Aston Villa Season Tickets give free admission to all Central League matches at Villa Park and priority rights to FA Cup Semi-Finals or other important matches that may be staged here. They are, of course, the only way to guarantee tickets for FA or Football League Cup Finals in which Aston Villa take part.

Application forms are available as from Monday 5th November 1979, from the Ticket Office and the staff will be pleased to show you the seats available and to answer any queries you may have.

Super for Sue

Sue Walker, our Assistant Commercial Manager, is the proud mother of a fine baby daughter, Alexandra Elisabeth—who weighed in at Good Hope Hospital on 21st October, at 6lb 13oz. Congratulations to Sue, and her other half, David.

ABOUT VILLA

HAPPY RETURNS, GORDON

Congratulations to Gordon Cowans on his 21st birthday. Here's wishing Gordon many happy returns off the field as well as on!

CAPTION COMPETITION

Thank you for your splendid efforts in our caption competition.

Remember? We asked you to put a suitable caption to the picture of Des Bremner being booked in the Southampton game. We had a smashing response, and some superb humour. In fact, at the end of the day we had a terrible job trying to find a winner, and, finally, we couldn't choose between two. So . . . two tickets for today's game have been sent to the joint winners.

They are Roger Fownes, 27 Snowdon Gardens, Churchdown, Gloucester GL3 1JL for: *Now cover your right eye and try and read the next line!* and Keith Hardware, 44 Tomlinson Road, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 9HN for: *Don't tell me, let me guess . . . six of clubs.*

Congratulations to these two Villa fans, and our thanks for all the other splendid entries. The competition proved so popular that we intend doing another one in a future issue of *Aston Villa News and Record*.

★ Altered and Additional Fixtures

SOUTHERN JUNIOR FLOODLIT CUP THIRD ROUND

ALDERSHOT FC v ASTON VILLA FC
Wednesday 7th November 1979
Kick-off 7-30pm Recreation Ground

POSTBAG

Dear Editor,

My name is Gareth Duxbury and I am 12 years old. I live in Perth, Western Australia, and I am Aston Villa's greatest fan. I get all the news and information about Villa from my Auntie Meg who lives in Erdington, Birmingham (Mrs Megan Street).

The walls of my bedroom are covered with photographs and autographs of the team. I also have football stickers, badges of the Villa, scarves, a pennant and a school bag.

Please accept the enclosed photographs of myself and new brother Jason, who will also become an Aston Villa fan one day.

Good Luck to the team for the '79-80 season.

G. DUXBURY
148 Herbert Road
Shentan Park
Perth 6008
Western Australia.



★ CHANGE OF FIXTURE

BRIGHTON v ASTON VILLA

TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY 1980
Kick-off 7-45pm Goldstone Ground
This match was originally scheduled for 9th October 1979



MOTEL

Our good friend George Clay has come up with an interesting photograph. George, one of the principals of a long established centre which bears his name in Broad Street, has had sent to him a photograph from Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada, which strikes a few cords of interest.

It features a motel sign named after our famous club and was taken by an old friend of his, Charles A. Ford who is the Vice-Chairman of the Getzon factory which manufactures the



A familiar face—and many new ones—came unexpectedly to Villa Park recently, when our former skipper Brian Tiler, coach to the Zambian national soccer team, brought his boys to look around the stadium on their way to see the Bolton v Liverpool match. The Zambians, who are expected to do well in next year's Olympic Games, were duly impressed with what they saw on their trip round Villa Park with Commercial Manager Eric Woodward. So was Brian: "The North Stand is the best of its kind I have seen" he said, as they posed for this picture.

Aston Villa Travellers Club

IPSWICH TOWN v ASTON VILLA

SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 1979

FARE £4.30

Coaches depart from the Serpentine Car Park at 9-15am.

Seats can be booked during opening hours (9-30am/4-45pm) at the Pools Office, or by postal application (please enclose membership card, correct remittance and a stamped self-addressed envelope), or after today's game.

Seats cannot be guaranteed less than 48 hours prior to each away game.

★ For further information please telephone 021-328 2246

brass instruments George sells in his shop.

Perhaps Mr Ford can do a little more sleuthing on our behalf and discover just how this motel just happens to bear our name.

Our commiserations to Mr Clay incidentally on the death of his Aunt Miss Anne Davis who died during the summer almost 92 years of age. Says George: "I once remember her telling me how she cycled round the track at Villa Park, about 1901, and then went on a day's outing to Sutton Coldfield."

George, if you wait for the *Villa News and Record* on 8th December we are hoping to provide you with a peak into the past that will evoke a few memories for your family.

BOLTON WANDERERS

Bolton Wanderers' inconsistent form has posed more than one baffling question for manager Ian Greaves this season.

★ How can a team be good enough to draw with Liverpool at Anfield—seven days before crashing to home defeat by Third Division Southend United in the League Cup?

★ How can a team hold Liverpool to another draw in the return fixture at Burnden Park—within a week of elimination by St. Mirren in the Anglo-Scottish Cup and within four days of a 4-0 trouncing at Derby which sent them to the bottom of the First Division?

★ How can a team remain unbeaten at home—as Bolton were after seven League fixtures at Burnden Park—but take its only away point from a match at Liverpool which appeared far harder on paper than the subsequent defeats at Coventry, Brighton, Norwich, and Derby?

★ How can a team have perhaps the best striking partnership in the country one season—Frank Worthington and Alan Gowling shared 42 goals last term—and then see the same players offer just two goals in 15 games the following season?

No doubt Mr Greaves has pondered for many hours over such problems, talking over various solutions with his assistant manager, Stan Anderson, and his coach, John Pickering. His exasperation was particularly understandable when he publicly criticised the team after the League Cup shock against Southend.

He said: "I've often had a go in the privacy of the dressing room but this is the first time I have come out in public and had a go. And I feel I was perfectly justified in expecting much more from the players."

Mr Greaves' sense of fair play prompted him to give the established stars time to recover form. He stood by the regulars—until the battering at Derby. Changes could not be delayed any longer.

Worthington, who missed the start of the season while still playing for Philadelphia Fury in America, was eventually transfer-listed, and for the home game against Liverpool, skipper Roy Greaves and Scotsman Neil McNab were dropped from midfield. Len Cantello, substitute at Derby, was also missing because of a groin injury.

Discussing the changes in an interview with the *Manchester Evening News*, Mr Greaves commented: "I had to do something and I hope the point has been made to all the players—not just those I left out."

"You can coach and talk to players all you like, but often the only things that wakes them up is to leave some out. I've been fair with them. They had nine League games to get it right before the Liverpool match."

The new-look formation worked well against the Champions. Neil Whatmore, restored to partner Gowling, scored a superb goal; defender Mike Walsh underlined his versatility by switching to midfield; and Chris Thompson, who played alongside Villa's Ivor Linton in the West Bromwich Boys side, made a promising debut in midfield.

The 1-1 scoreline against Liverpool was followed by a 0-0 draw against Arsenal—two precious points which lifted Bolton into 20th place, one point above Brighton and Ipswich. However, they slipped again in a 5-2 defeat at Nottingham Forest and Mr Greaves is obviously



SAM ALLARDYCE



WILLIE MORGAN



**LEN
CANTELLO**

disappointed that a side strengthened by three players costing around £750,000 has yet to make a major impact on the First Division.

Bolton were promoted at the end of 1977-78 as Second Division Champions and with a reputation as the best footballing team outside the First Division.

They were among the relegation candidates when reaching December last year with only three wins but a survival route was posted by an unbeaten spell of seven games in the Spring. This gave them a final safety margin of ten points—despite conceding more away goals than any other team apart from bottom-of-the-table Chelsea.

Mr Greaves recognised the need to add proven First Division experience. During the summer, he paid a club record £350,000 for Albion's former England Under-23 cap, Len Cantello, and invested another six-figure sum in former England full back Dave Clement from QPR.

Spending on such a scale proved that Bolton really mean business. However, Mr Greaves is conscious that the club has to keep within a sensible budget.

He told the *Manchester Evening News*: "We cannot really compete in the transfer market with the big boys. But I am a super-optimist and if I didn't think I could take Bolton right to the top, I would get out. There is always a certain amount of pressure in the First Division, but I will carry on until the aggravation of the job outweighs the benefit."

Ian Greaves, a former Manchester United Cup Finalist, started in management at Huddersfield Town—where he won promotion to the First Division—and later a brief coaching spell with Plymouth. then he joined Bolton as assistant to Jimmy Armfield, but it was only three months before he became No. 1 following Mr Armfield's departure to Leeds in October, 1974.

The first season was difficult. Bolton had only five points after eight games and it took a lot of hard work to finish with 42 points. The next year, Bolton missed promotion by one point—and the same happened 12 months later.

But Mr Greaves maintained faith in his footballing principles and Bolton finally made promotion last year. To this day, he hates the idea of defensive football and was upset when Bolton were criticised for staging a midfield stalemate in the draw at Liverpool in August.

That was a 'one-off' situation dictated largely by the opposition forcing Bolton to defend, but, in general, Mr Greaves believes in trying to be positive on away grounds. That was definitely the case at Villa Park last March when Bolton lost 3-0 but won a lot of friends for their skilful outlook.

Unfortunately, this policy rebounded on them as they won only two away games. The story is much the same this season, even though they have an apparently stronger squad.

Goalkeeper Jim McDonagh, a bargain signing from Rotherham, hasn't missed a League game in the three years since he succeeded Barry Siddall on the latter's departure to Sunderland. But the defensive formation in front of McDonagh has been subject to change.

Clement is now installed at right back, taking over from Peter Nicholson, the former Blackpool player who switched to left back until he was replaced by last year's England Youth cap, David Burke. In the centre, Bolton began with Walsh and former England candidate Paul Jones. Then they recalled Black Country-born Sam Allardyce to replace Jones, who had to wait only a few games before he came back when Walsh was pushed forward into midfield.

Greaves, who has high hopes of beating Eddie Hopkin's club record of 519 League appearances, has been the key midfield man for many years, but even his place was in jeopardy as Wanderers won only one League match—beating Southampton 2-1—out of the first 12.

McNab, a former Scotland Under-23 cap, and Cantello, who left Albion at the end of his contract, were originally automatic choices to link up with Greaves. However, Walsh and Burke were both used to bolster the defensive capacity in midfield, while former Scotland, Burnley and Manchester United winger Willie Morgan helps out in his deep role as a winger.

Now, young Thompson, who joined the club as a striker, is getting his chance in the middle of a basic 4-4-2 formation on away grounds.

Goals have been in short supply since Gowling and Worthington lost some of last season's effectiveness, but Whatmore, top scorer with 19 in the promotion campaign, is relishing his chance to operate up front, instead of the midfield role which he occupied for much of last season.

Whatmore was used in a deeper position because of injury to Bolton's former England Under-21 skipper, Peter Reid. He played only 14 League games last season and is just getting over a serious knee injury sustained on a snow-covered pitch during an abandoned game against Everton on New Year's Day.

He made his comeback in the Reserves in September and it's to be hoped that he will be able to resume a very promising career. A fully-fit Reid would certainly give Bolton an impressive midfield unit.



NEIL WHATMORE



BOLTON WANDERERS

Turned Professional: 1880

**Record Transfer Fee Received: £85,000
from Newcastle United for
Wyn Davies, October 1966**

**Record Transfer Fee Paid: £350,000 to
WBA for Len Cantello, May 1979**

**Record Attendance: 69,912 v
Manchester City, FA Cup,
February 18th, 1933**

**Record Receipts: £53,931 v Everton,
League Cup semi-final 2nd Leg,
February 15th, 1977**

Pitch Measurements: 113yds x 76yds

**Club Colours: White Shirts, Navy Blue
Shorts, White Stockings**

**Change Colours: Red Shirts, White
Shorts, Red Stockings, White Trim**

Club Nickname: 'Trotters'

A new colour picture of our
centre-forward David Geddis,
the second in an occasional
picture series.



Terry Chorley is a Birmingham bus driver who will travel anywhere to find a vintage Villa programme.

Terry, you see, is a Villa fanatic—and a programme fanatic. It is a terrible combination so it is perhaps just as well that he is a bachelor and doesn't have domestic ties to dampen his interest in collecting.

"I don't remember why I started collecting programmes" he said. "I have been a Villa fan for some years and had always been fascinated by them, long before I started collecting. Now it's a hobby that I take very seriously indeed—so if there is any Villa fans who have old Villa programmes to sell, I would be glad to hear from them."

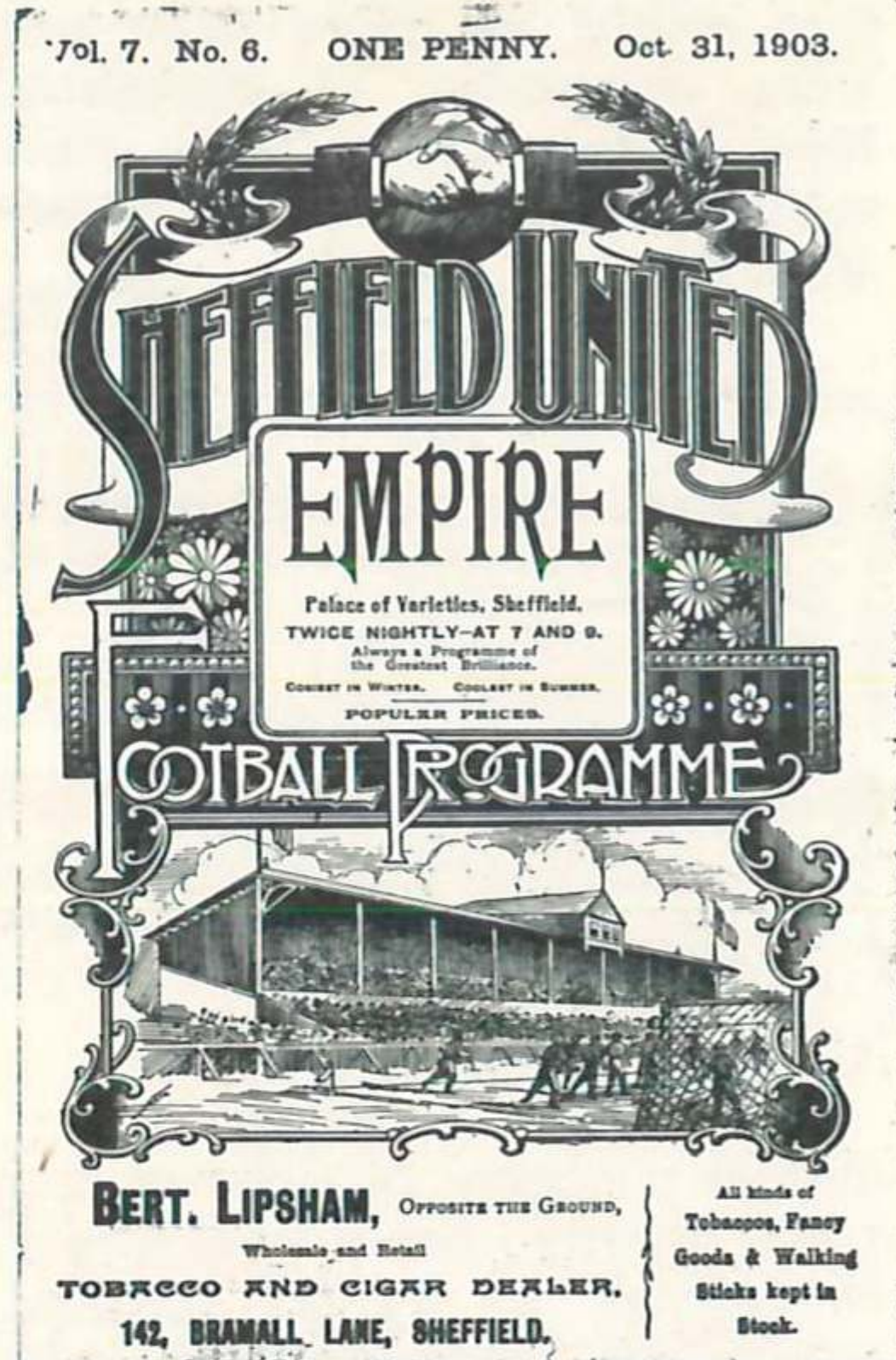
Terry's address is . . . 287 Chinnbrook Road, Billesley, Birmingham.

Originally, Terry collected all kinds of programmes but quickly switched to an all-Villa section, which is quite comprehensive. His earliest programme is one he picked up at a programme fair. He paid £8.00 to secure a penny (1d) programme dated October 31st 1903 of a game between Sheffield United and Villa at Bramall Lane. He has programmes from Cyprus (1972) and Russia among his overseas collection and I particularly like two programmes from Chelsea in the early 30's which have cartoons on the front cover.

I was able to solve one little riddle for him, in that he had been puzzled why a programme for a game between Wimbledon and Aston Villa on Cup-Final Eve, 1973, looked so remarkably like a 'home' Villa programme of the

may well eventually be one printed less than 6 years ago. The Chester programme for our first-leg League Cup Semi-Final in January 1975 was a 10p affair, and the home club apparently badly misjudged the demand. Consequently that programme is now something of a collector's item, and Terry has already rejected £6.50 for it.

"None of my programmes are for sale" he said. Including, clearly, the pro-



THE

PROGRAMME GAME... CONTINUED

same period. The explanation was simple enough . . . Wimbledon, in those days, were a non-league club and hardly geared up to league football, though their determination to gain League status was already obvious, and we agreed to write, print and produce the programme for them. It is perhaps the only time in football history when the away team has done the home team's programme!

Incidentally, Terry insists that the most valuable programme in his collection

programme for our first hesitant steps into Europe when we played in Antwerp because, to my knowledge, only 2,000 were printed for that match.

The story behind this particular programme was that the Antwerp secretary was a great follower of British football, and a collector of British programmes. The Belgian clubs—like so many on the continent—didn't produce programmes, and I remember the Antwerp secretary mournfully telling me afterward that the entire sale lasted about 10 minutes. Terry's ultimate ambition is, he admits, totally impos-

sible. "I want every programme ever produced for an Aston Villa game, home or away," he says. Instead, he will settle for every programme produced for an FA Cup Final in which Aston Villa have been involved.

Good hunting, Terry.

Incidentally, Gerald Harris our programme concessionaire, has had many calls and letters since we published our article on collecting a couple of issues ago, and has spent a fair bit of time valuing old programmes for supporters. "Most people who have contacted me have grossly over-valued their items" he said. "Programmes in bad condition will not fetch big prices



and it is only the really rare programmes (the rarity not necessarily being determined by age, but by availability) that fetch the exceptional prices quoted in your previous article."

The correspondence received has emphasised the ever-growing interest in programme collecting.

Consequently Gerald Harris and I plan to stage a Programme Fair of our own at Villa Park in the New Year which will be biased particularly toward programme collectors who have only recently started.

More details later.

Eric Woodward

IRRESISTIBLE VILLA.

An 8-Man Attack: Chelsea Trouble Start with Half-Backs.

By JAMES H. FREEMAN.

THE Aston Villa scoring machine began to function 19 minutes after the start of the game at Chelsea, and from that time, when Waring obtained his first goal, scoring shots came almost as if they were regulated by the clock. When the Villa throw all their forces into the attack they are irresistible. The Chelsea defence had no answer to the eight forwards that the Villa threw into their goal area just as often as it seemed necessary—or desirable—to add another to the list.

That Tate, the Villa left half, the Chelsea penalty taker, Waring, they scored three times in this match, you will appreciate the heroic work particularly of Jackson and Gallacher. If these two men could have Gibson, Talbot and Tate behind them, what a difference it would make. The Villa played chess-board football and Chelsea were just pawns. I can see now that second-half incident when Gibson, with the ball at his feet, surveyed the field in front of him and him be-



The CHelsea F.C. Chronicle

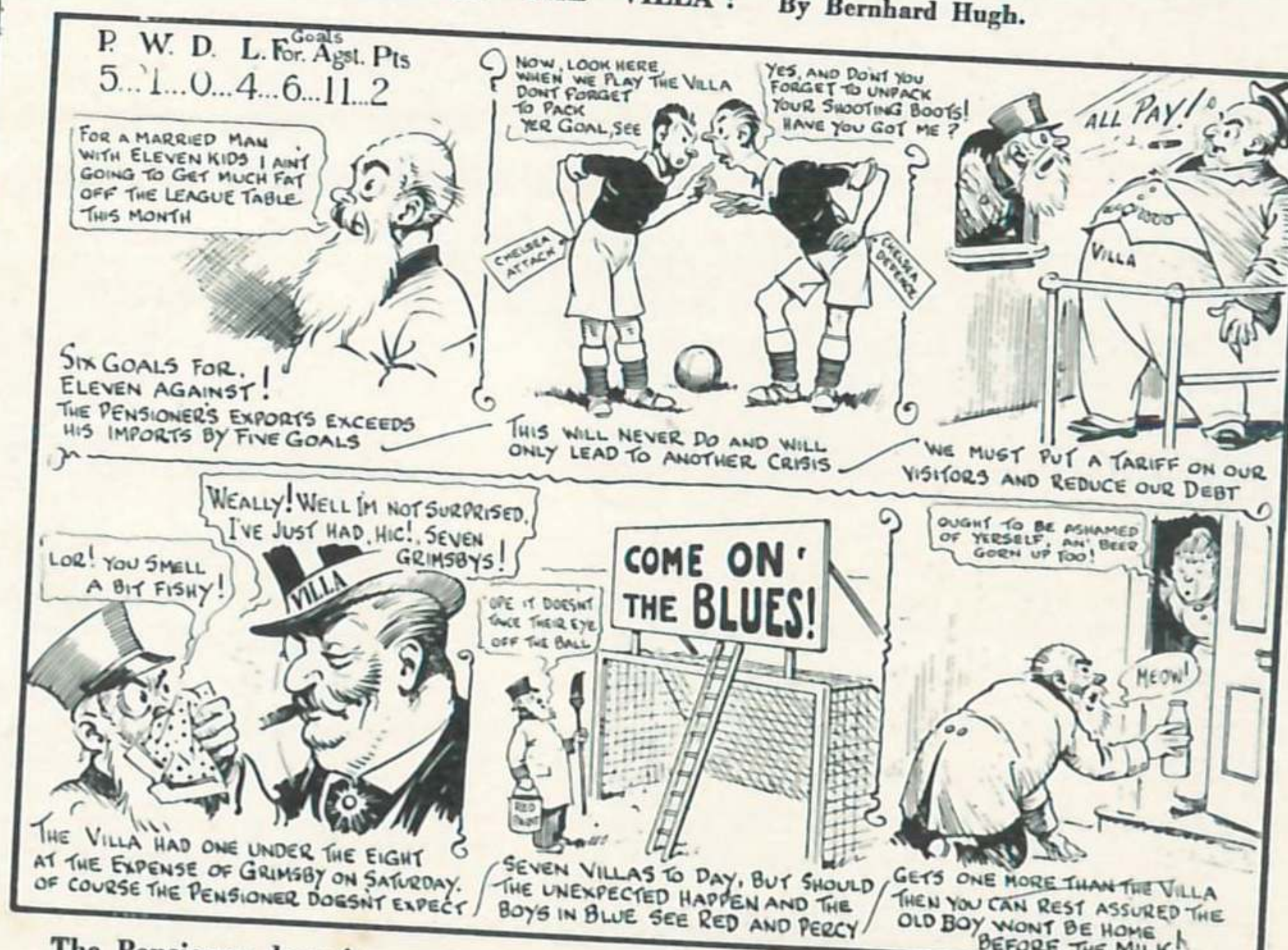
OFFICIAL PROGRAMME of

The Chelsea Football & Athletic Company, Limited.
MEMBERS OF THE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (First Division).
THE LONDON FOOTBALL COMBINATION.
Runners-up—FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CUP 1914-1915.

VOL. XXVII. No. 6. Saturday, 19th September, 1931.

TWOPENCE.
POST FREE 3D.

PAY UP THE VILLA! By Bernhard Hugh.



The Pensioner doesn't expect to get much change out of the Villa in these hard times but he hopes to get some entertainment tax at least.

WANT TO SPONSOR THE LIVERPOOL GAME?



The announcement of our mini-sponsorship for the game against Liverpool on December 8th has produced a problem—and a happy solution. From the enquiries we had, it became evident that there was great disappointment in that we did not offer special reduced rates for children.

Some potential clients made the point that they would like to bring their children for a special Christmas treat; others said they could not afford to bring the family at the rate quoted because of the expense involved. So, as an experiment for this game only, we have decided to go the whole hog and reduce the price across the board.

We have slashed the price in half and, now, will offer this special once-only deal: Two tickets for the sponsorship package for the price of one. This means that for £50 (plus £7.50 VAT) you will get two tickets for the Liverpool sponsorship package which includes . . .

☆ — Tour of Villa Park

☆ — Match Programme

.....

.....

☆ — Three-course lunch, complete with wines and soft drinks

☆ — Tea, Coffee or other beverages

.....

.....

☆ — Specially reserved seats in the front block of the North Stand

☆ — Draw for autographed football by Aston Villa players

Demand for this special day out is likely to be brisk so you are urged to make immediate application to: Commercial Department, Villa Park, Birmingham B6 6HE. Telephone: 021-327 5399 enclosing your name, address and, where possible, your telephone number.

.....

Applications will be dealt with strictly on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that those people who have already applied and paid for places at the previous prices will be receiving a letter with further information.



MEANWHILE, BACK IN BANGKOK...

I should have known better writes Eric Woodward . . . I should have realised that there just might be more than one Villa supporter in Bangkok! Remember this little item which appeared in a recent *Villa News*?

AROUND THE WORLD WITH VILLA . . .

One of our long-distance fans, Massimo Bianchi from Italy, is spending his holidays watching his favourite football team in action. Massimo saw us play against Southampton and Everton; he plans to watch us at Derby and Wolverhampton, before returning home.

Another long-distance fan is Wiboon Nakosone, one of our supporters in Bangkok, Thailand. Come to think of it, he is our only supporter in Bangkok—at least, as far as we know. Wiboon has just ordered £11 worth of goods to be shipped out to him by mail from our shop. And if you want to see the latest list of merchandise, our shop staff will be on duty immediately after the game today to meet your requirements, or supply you with the new list.

Incidentally, we have again in Lewis's, Corp. Fifth Floor, right

chanabum he came across this lady sporting a Villa 'T' shirt, unfortunately being a rather remote area she didn't speak English and my brother couldn't understand her dialect of Thai, so unless someone can enlighten us we shall not know how the Villa gospel got this far.

Mrs Mountford also comes up with a novel idea of yet another club at Villa Park for couples who have met at Villa Park and married. She goes on "I met my husband standing in the Trinity Road Enclosure by the players entrance, and watched that most marvellous of sights, Peter McParland in full glory, going down the left wing!"

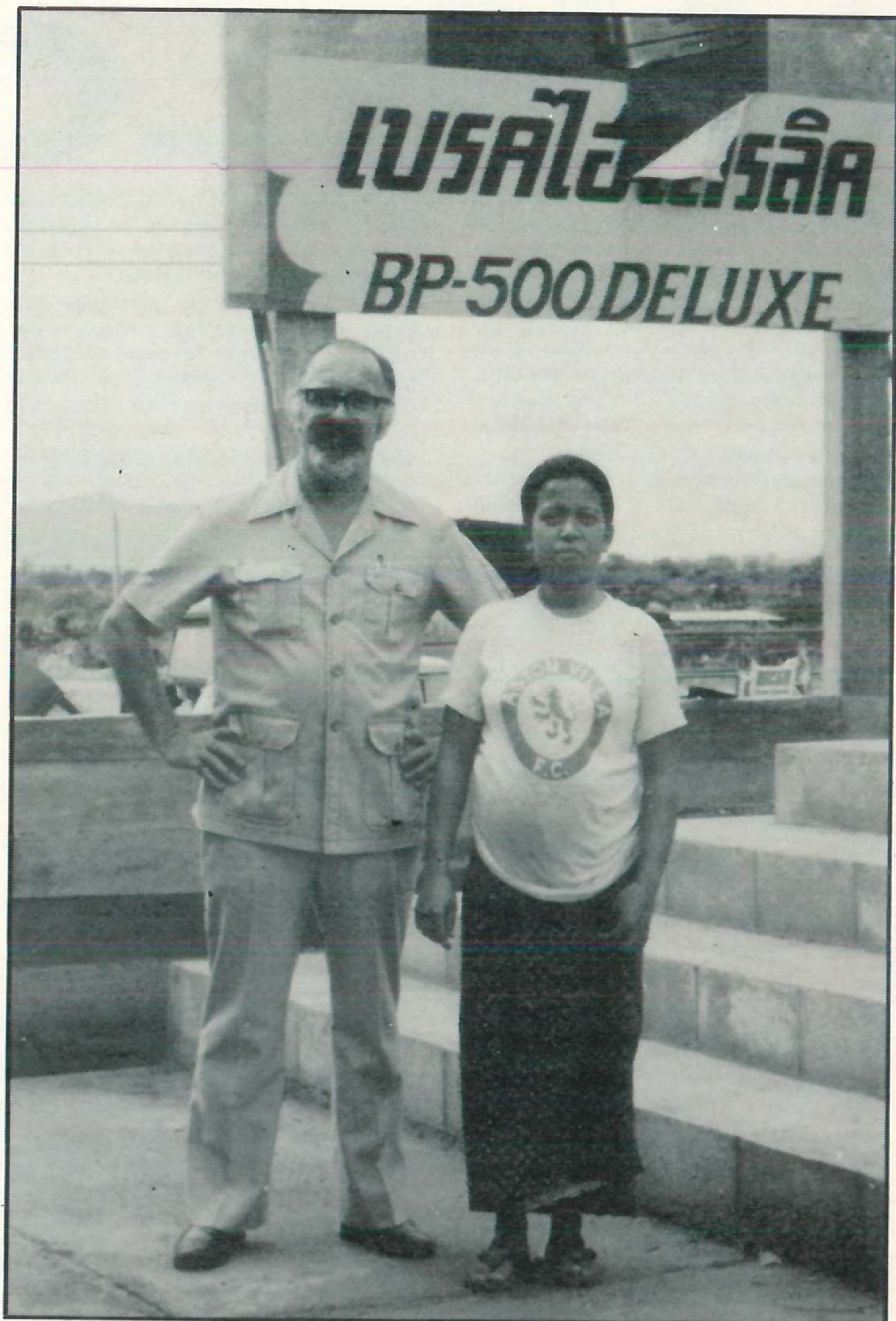
Within a couple of days of that being printed I heard from Mrs J. Mountford of Laurel Cottage, Atherstone, Warwickshire who said . . .

By coincidence the same week you mentioned Wiboon Nakosone as probably the only Villa supporter; in Bangkok I received this photograph from my brother in Bangkok (and, of course like all our family a staunch Villa supporter).

Whilst 'upcountry' in the Bridge on the River Kwai area at Kant-

She enclosed the picture reproduced here of Mr Tom Wyant and the lady wearing the Aston Villa tee-shirt is proof that the good is being spread throughout Thailand and intends writing to Mr Nakosone. She adds "I would like to correspond with him because we have been to Bangkok on holiday and know the enthusiasm for football over there where the full version of the *ATV Star Soccer* is shown.

"Keep up the good work polishing up all those little Villa lights all over the world!"





ASDA STORES LIMITED

6 Aston Hall Road, Aston Villa

Birmingham B6 7JJ • Telephone: 021-328 5050

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BIRMINGHAM B27 6BH

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Yellow Pages for local Branch number

Looking back over three decades of Villa's post-war history through the files of the Villa News and Record . . .

Seventies...

With Villa holding third place in Division III, the home fixture against middle-of-the-table Chesterfield in October, 1970, did not appear to represent one of the season's tougher tasks.

But, as Villa learned on so many occasions in that campaign, the opposition usually responded to the atmosphere of near-30,000 crowds at Villa Park. The Derbyshire club battled for a 0-0 draw . . . the fourth successive Villa game which had ended all square.

Worse was to follow a week later when Port Vale, managed by former Villa player Gordon Lee, smashed our unbeaten away record by winning 2-0 before a gate of 11,224 at Vale Park. This result knocked Villa back to fifth place and underlined the importance of recovering top form in the next home match against Tranmere Rovers.

A goal by Chico Hamilton gave Villa a narrow success. Harry Gregory, the club's new signing from Charlton, was celebrating his 27th birthday and it was appropriate that he should finish on the winning side for the first time in three appearances.

Villa then moved back to League Cup business. Carlisle United, beaten only once in 13 games, were tough opposition in the fourth-round tie at Villa Park, but Villa clinched a quarter-final place when Brian Tiler scored the only goal after 67 minutes.

News items . . . Chief Scout Peter Doherty left to take up an appointment at Preston, while Bruce Rioch underwent his second cartilage operation of the season.

Sixties...

A goal-difference of 26-33 in mid-October, 1960, showed that Villa had been involved in some entertaining football after 13 League fixtures. However, the defence continued to struggle in away games and we went down again when Les Strong scored a late goal at Highbury to give Arsenal a 2-1 victory.

David Herd had opened the scoring for the 'Gunners' before Jimmy MacEwan, Villa's outstanding forward, equalised with a 25-yard cross-shot. Peter McParland was a casualty of a competitive game, losing a couple of teeth in a first-half collision.

Villa's next fixture, the local derby against Birmingham City, was a cracker, marked by a goal from new signing Alan O'Neill with his first kick. The game was only 25 seconds old when the ex-Sunderland forward beat Johnny Schofield. A goal from Gerry Hitchens and a penalty save by Nigel Sims enabled Villa to take a 2-0 lead by the interval.

But the best was still to come. McParland and O'Neill scored one goal each in the second half while Hitchens completed his first hat-trick of the season to make his tally 13 goals from 15 appearances. Mike Hellowell and Bobby Thomson, with an own goal, replied for Blues in the 6-2 thriller.

A week later, Villa were again on local derby duty—this time, against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns. It was Villa's first appearance on the ground since Ronnie Allen scored the goal which put us in the Second Division in 1959.

Villa's hopes of taking revenge gained the best possible boost when Hitchens scored after two minutes. O'Neill followed up with a second just before half-time and that was the final score in Villa's first away win of the season.

Fifties...

Villa took a break from First Division affairs in October, 1950, when travelling to Aldershot for the annual friendly against the Army FA. Our reserve centre forward, Derek Pace, led the Army attack and the Forces' side also included such stars of the future as Nigel Sims, then with Wolves, Tommy Taylor, then with Barnsley, and John Charles, who had already started his great career with Leeds United.

Villa won 3-1 with goals from Gibson, Bullock and Martin (penalty), but Pace had the satisfaction of scoring against his clubmates.

Two days later, Villa were involved in a British record transfer when Trevor Ford moved to Sunderland. It was obviously a controversial issue at the time, for the Programme Editor, commented: "So much has appeared in the Press, one way or another, on this subject that we feel no good purpose will be served by our adding to it. During the time he was on our books, Trevor played a lot of good football and the fact that he made 14 international appearances for Wales whilst a member of the Aston Villa playing staff is sufficient testimony to his ability on the field."

Villa still without an away win, failed to break the spell when meeting Burnley at Turf Moor on October 28th. We went down 2-0 to goals from Holden and Attwell.

Villa's League position was becoming precarious. With 11 points after 15 games, we were only three points clear of Chelsea at the bottom, but Middlesbrough our visitors on November 4th, were chasing Arsenal and Newcastle in a close race at the top. Form was confirmed when 'Boro won 1-0 with a goal by Bell.



KEITH OSGOOD

Keith Osgood became the fifth central defender to be used by Derby County this season. With Roy McFarland injured and Steve Wicks sold to QPR, Osgood formed a new partnership with Aiden McCaffery immediately after completing his transfer from Coventry City.

Osgood, formerly with Spurs, lost his place at Highfield Road in December last year and was delighted to accept the chance of First Division football with Derby, who almost bought midfield man **Barry Powell** from the 'Sky Blues'.

Osgood told the *Derby Evening Telegraph*: "I wasn't officially transfer listed at Coventry, but I had an agreement with **Gordon Milne**, who promised he would let me know if a reasonable offer came in. Derby were first and I had no hesitation about joining them."

Former Albion midfield player **Wayne Hughes** returned to League football with Cardiff City only six months after leaving The Hawthorns in a £50,000 transfer to Tulsa Roughnecks.

The American club showed a profit of around £20,000 when Cardiff manager **Richie Morgan** agreed terms for the Welsh Under-21 international. Mr Morgan confirmed he had been watching Hughes before he left Albion. He added: "My view then was that he was a bit young to come into a team that was not doing very well at the time. I have now bought him as a long-term investment. By today's prices, we think we have a good deal—only time will tell."

Hughes, who played only six senior games for Albion, scored 12 goals in this summer's American campaign.

He is just one of the many British players returning to the League. **Roger Kenyon**, a member of the triumphant Vancouver Whitecaps side, along with **Alan Ball** and **Willie Johnston**, has signed a monthly contract with Bristol City. The ex-Everton defender will provide cover in a City department which has suffered through injuries.

Another Vancouver star, former England and Ipswich striker **Trevor Whymark** was disappointed when Norwich City were unable to sign him on loan

NATION WIDE

BRITISH FOOTBALL IN FOCUS

because of registration problems. However, Whymark got his chance when joining Starta Rotterdam.

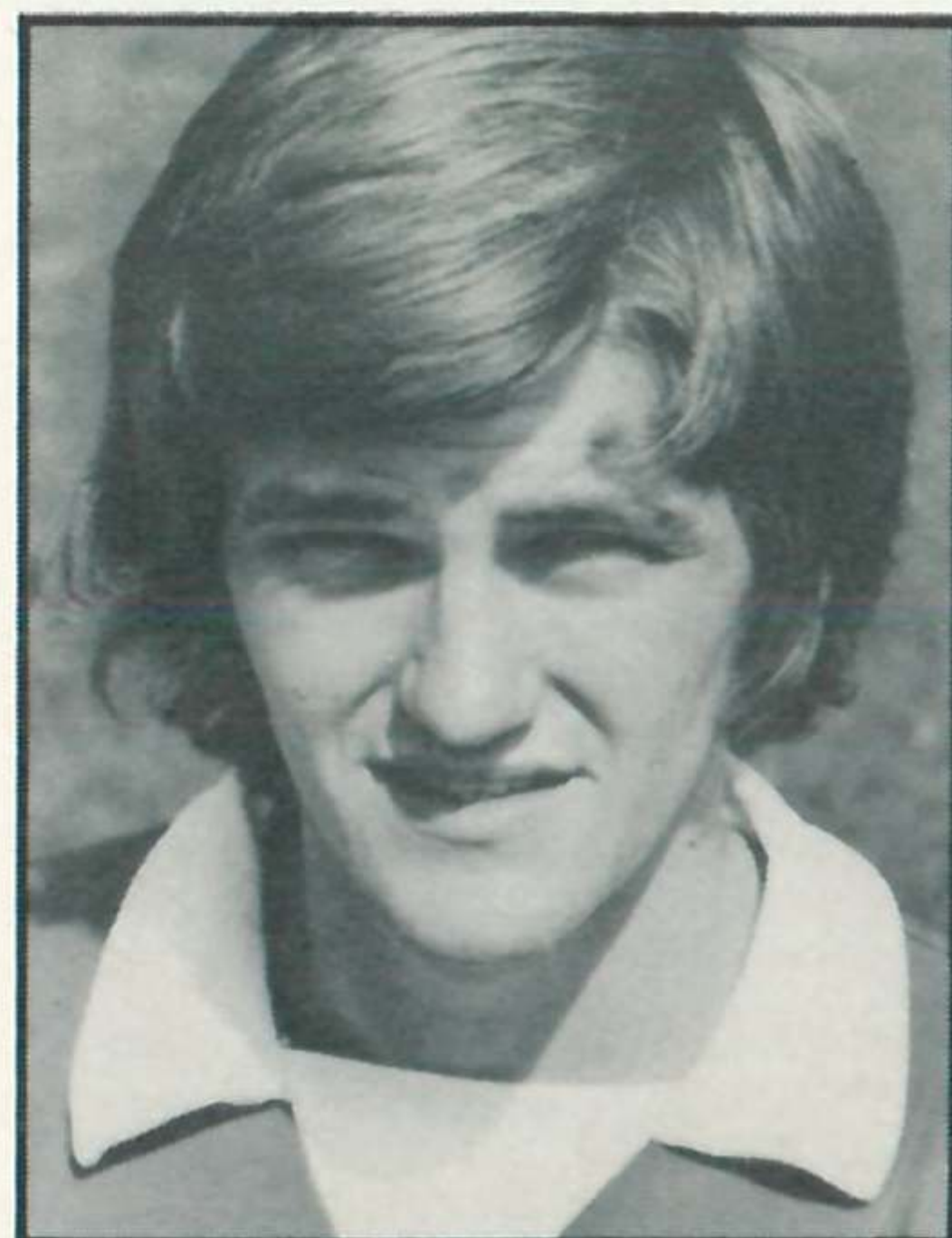
The Dutch club needed a new striker when **Rudi Geells**, signed from Anderlecht during the summer, was sidelined with a serious Achilles tendon injury. Whymark said: "In Holland, they always mark man-to-man and use a sweeper. They play this way in the North American League, so I am better off going to Rotterdam from America than from England."

By Fourth Division standards, York City collected an enormous profit when they sold striker **Gordon Staniforth** to Bradford City for a reported £120,000. Less than a three years ago, they bought Staniforth from Hull City for only £7,500.

Clive Allen, Queen's Park Rangers' 18-year-old forward discovery, equalled a club record by scoring in five successive home games. His success is very much a case of 'following in father's footsteps', for his dad, **Les**, is well remembered as a member of the Spurs' Double-winning side.

Manchester City defender **Paul Futcher** is glad that he delayed a decision on a transfer to Oldham Athletic. Terms were agreed between the clubs, at something like £200,000 less than City paid to Luton 18 months ago, but Futcher asked for time to consider the move.

The outcome was a return to the City side—and bad luck for Oldham. Futcher said: "If the first-team door at Maine Road hadn't suddenly opened to me, there is nothing more certain than that I would be an Oldham player."



TREVOR WHYMARK

Kaziu Deyna, with nine goals in 13 appearances since the end of last season, and **Mick Robinson**, the summer signing from Preston, were other players encouraged by an improvement in City's results.

But Robinson had one complaint . . . he prefers not to be called Mick. He said: "I don't like the abbreviation, but if my name has got to be shortened, I much prefer Mike. However, my family and close friends call me by my correct name. And that's Michael."

An injury received at Villa Park in April, 1977, has finally terminated the playing career of Norwich City's Scottish midfield man, **Billy Steele**. Steele, now 24, has been in hospital eight times in the past two years for various examinations on his knee and says: "I just don't think I could take another operation." Norwich are now making arrangements to give Steele a Testimonial.



BILLY STEELE

More news from Carrow Road—**John Fashanu**, 17-year-old younger brother of Norwich's top scorer, **Justin**, has signed professional forms.

Southampton striker **Phil Boyer** completed a rare feat in First Division football by scoring a hat-trick in two successive home games. Through his long career, Boyer has usually taken a back seat as a marksman, but now he is revelling in the support of **Charlie George** and **Mike Channon**.

He says: "Last season I was expected to get all the high balls—and I'm only a little fellow. I was also playing with younger, inexperienced players, but now with Mike and Charlie in the team, it's a lot easier."

For the first half of last season, Middlesbrough goalkeeper **John Platt** thought his First Division days were numbered. He had loan spells with Hartlepool and Cardiff City, but he returned to Ayresome Park and displaced Scottish international **Jim Stewart** for the last 15 games.

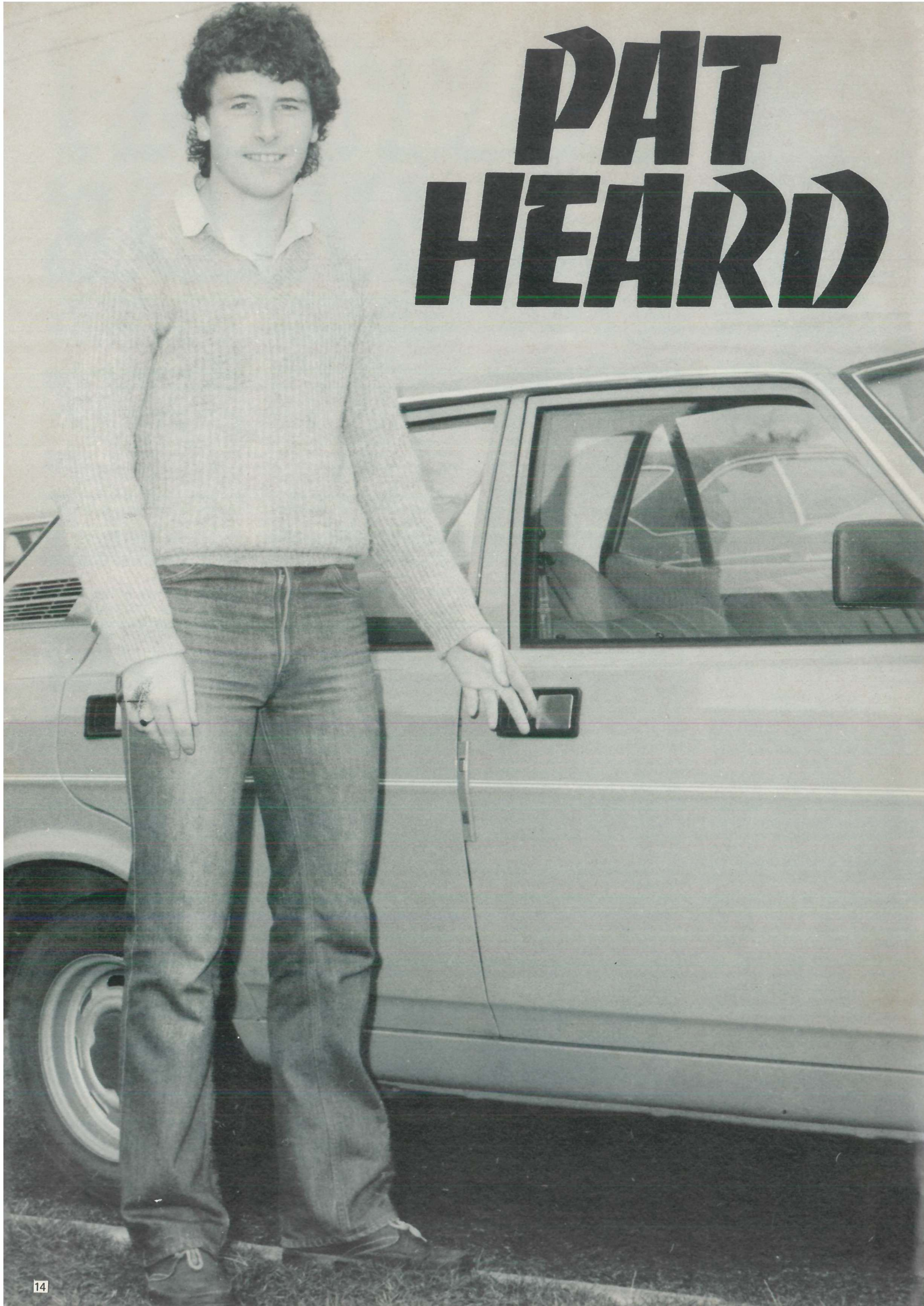
Platt has remained No. 1 choice this season and says: "The biggest thing to spur me on was to prove Middlesbrough wrong in trying to sell me. Manager **John Neal** hadn't seen the best of me until the end of last season. While that was the case, he felt he needed a new goalkeeper—and that was fair enough."

Former Villa player **John Gregory** lost his place at Brighton recently, but not through any lack of form. He was sidelined because of appendicitis.



JIM PLATT

PAT HEARD



Two telephone calls have changed Pat Heard's soccer life in the past year.

★ The first was on New Year's Eve when he was asked to report to the hotel where Everton were preparing for their Bank Holiday fixture against Bolton Wanderers.

★ The second was a couple of weeks ago when Everton manager Gordon Lee rang with news that Pat was lined up for a move to Villa Park as part of the John Gidman deal.

Both calls had a happy ending. Pat made his League debut at Burnenden Park on January 1st and he signed for Villa on October 18th.

But he hopes that the transfer is more 'permanent' than his first senior match with Everton. That game was abandoned at half-time and his appearance was scrubbed from the official records!

"I didn't really think I had a chance of playing," says Pat. "In fact, I didn't know I would be deputising for Martin Dobson until an hour before the kick-off." But he took the precaution of arranging for his parents, Arline and George, and his brother, Chris, to travel from their home in Hull.

"It was quite a day for them as well, he says. "They kept phoning Bolton to see if the game was on. Snow was falling all over the north, but it was a three-hour journey and they had to set out. Mom told me afterwards that she didn't realise I was playing until I came out."

The game was finally blotted out by a blizzard and Pat had to wait a month before his name finally went down in Everton's record of senior appearances. He played at left back for ten minutes as substitute against Wolves at Molineux and then made his full debut in centre midfield at Southampton on February 17th.

"The weather was bad in both of those games as well," recalls Pat. "The match at Southampton was the only one in the First Division that day. But I enjoyed the experience. I remember marking Alan Ball and it went quite well for me. I was that keyed up, I could have played against anyone. I really wanted to do well."

After one more outing in midfield, Pat then switched to left back—standing in for the injured Mike Pejic—and enjoyed a run of six games there—including successive matches against Nottingham Forest and Liverpool.

"I remember most about the Forest game," he says. "But the Liverpool match just flashed past. It's a tremendous occasion on Merseyside and I began to feel nervous during the team talk at five o'clock. The Boss started talking about Dalglish and all the other big names, and that's when it really hit me."

Elevation to the first-team meant that Pat celebrated his 19th birthday on March 17th in North Africa, where Everton were playing Libya in Tripoli. This season, he has been abroad twice, playing in three pre-season games in Belgium and Germany, and then sitting among the substitutes for



the UEFA Cup-tie against Feyenoord in Rotterdam.

His one League game was on the opening day against Norwich when he played in midfield, but he appeared in his third role—as a central defender—in most of Everton's reserve fixtures. Then it was back to midfield when he made his Villa debut against Forest Reserves last week. "I was just as keyed up for that one as I would have been in the first team," says Pat. "The first game in new colours is always important."

Apart from Mike Pejic and Ken McNaught, Pat recognised another familiar face when he linked up with Villa. He recalled playing alongside Terry Donovan in the Humberside Under-19 Schools team. "We must have had six or seven games together and we had a chat over old times when Terry was at Goodison Park with Villa Reserves earlier in the season."

Pat always wanted to be a footballer from the age of eight or nine. It was an ambition fully supported by his parents. "They helped me a lot with their encouragement," he says. "They pushed me into Sunday league teams and gave up their time to travel around, watching me in most of my games."

In those days, Pat became a long-range supporter of Chelsea—"I think I was attracted to them because of players like Cooke and Osgood"—but his own career was due to start with hometown Hull City. "They were supposed to be signing me," he explains. "Maybe they thought I wouldn't be in a hurry to leave home, but whatever happened, they didn't come along and in the meantime I went to Everton as an apprentice."

In his first season with Everton, 1976-77, Pat played in the Final of the FA Youth Cup against Crystal Palace, and in the following year, he was called into the England Youth team for the finals of the 'Little World Cup' in Poland. He made one appearance, in left midfield, against the host country but England lost 2-0 despite the presence of the current QPR trio, Chris Woods, Steve Burke and Clive Allen, and the Palace players, Billy Gilbert and Vince Hilaire.

Pat's career blossomed last season with his ten League appearances for Everton. And Gordon Lee was in no doubt that the young Yorkshireman had a top-class future.

He said: "He is a very dedicated boy with a lot of desire to want to be a First Division player. He knows his limitations, his strengths and weaknesses, and I am pretty certain he has the qualities to make a very good professional. More than that, he is a very good player as well."

Pat, however, recognised that younger players sometimes have less opportunity in the pressure-cooker atmosphere of the

Everton—Liverpool rivalry. He says: "Clubs like Everton often pay big money because the demand for success is so great. This does make it more difficult for the youngsters to break through. All the time the club is being compared with Liverpool."

The chance of joining Villa came so quickly that Pat barely had time to ring his Mom and Dad. "I first heard on the Wednesday when I was just about to get the coach for a Reserve game at Forest," he says. "The manager told me I wouldn't be playing and that I should go back to my digs to await a phone call."

"He rang again to say that nothing would be happening until the next day. I was training on the Thursday when I was called into the office and asked to go down to Villa. On the Wednesday, I was in two minds about what to do, but I signed straight away when I saw Mr Saunders."

"Now that I've joined the club and been with the lads for a week, I'm really enjoying myself."

Mike Beddow



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8	BRIAN LITTLE
9	DAVID GEDDIS
10	GORDON COWANS
11	GARY SHAW
12	

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2	DAVE CLEMENT
3	DAVID BURKE
4	SAM ALLARDYCE
5	PAUL JONES
6	MIKE WALSH
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12	

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E	Leeds United Bristol City	T	Cambridge United Luton Town
F	Liverpool Wolverhampton Wanderers	V	Cardiff City Notts County
G	Manchester United Southampton	W	Aston Villa Res Bolton Wanderers Res
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K	Nottingham Forest Ipswich Town	Z	

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